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Commissioner for Patents

Serial No. 10/619,275

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

***Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrunka in view of Kasiviswanathan. Claim 30 is amended to claim a directory service and a call control node, the call control node formulating a common channel signaling release message to release part of the call connection between the call control node and the directory service and to formulate an initial address message containing a redirecting number parameter to extend the call connection from the call control node to the VMS to connect the requesting party directly to the voicemail box of the VMS subscriber.

Such a system is neither taught nor suggested by any combination of Petrunka et al. or Kasiviswanathan et al. for reasons set forth in detail in applicant's response dated June 29, 2005. The rejection of claims 30-40 is thereby traversed.

The Office Action rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petrunka combined with Dammrose and further in view of Kasiviswanathan. Claim 16 is amended to add limitations that clearly distinguish over the combination of Petrunka and Dammrose, and Kasiviswanathan.

As explained in applicant's response filed June 29, 2005, Petrunka fail to meet the limitations of claim 16 before it was amended. Claim 16 is now amended to add the further limitations that the connection request is sent through the data packet network; the connection request message requests setup of a direct call from the calling party to a voicemail box of the service subscriber; and the call control node formulates all call setup messages required to establish the direct call from the calling party to the VMS, one of the call setup messages having a format reserved for redirecting call setup messages used by service switching points to redirect uncompleted calls to the service subscriber so that the VMS provides access to the voicemail box.

Dammrose teaches a system and method for using local number portability and public switched telephone network trunks as virtual loop-around trunks to provide services such as prepaid calling and calling party pays. The service call node can only be reached by dialing a ported number. This teaches directly away from the claimed invention and it is respectfully submitted that Dammrose teaches nothing that will lead a person of ordinary skill in the art to the claimed invention, especially given the teachings of Petrunka which requires a live operator. The rejection of claims 16-29 is thereby traversed.

Claim 28 is amended to correct an error in which the claim should have depended from claim 26 to provide proper antecedent for "the proxy server".

Claims 35 and 36 are amended to eliminate redundancy caused by the amendment of claim 30.

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Claim 40 is amended to read --server-- rather than "means", to accord with amended claim 35.

In view of these amendments, claims 16-40 pending in this application are considered to be in a condition for immediate allowance. Favourable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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